

## Waterfalls

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Designers constantly stimulate their creativity by searching for new inspiration sources. The design inspiration for this dress came from simple landscape, waterfalls. I was inspired by the transformation of the color and powerful streaks created by the vertical drop of waterfalls. The purpose of this project was to demonstrate the visual connection between the artistry of pintucking and the expression of fashion design.

The design process included free-hand painting of silk satin using a wide brush. In order to achieve the ombré effect without the dye spreading as rounded watermarks, I had to pre-wet the silk and brush the dye onto the fabric. As the fabric start to dry, dye was added three more times as a semi-dry brushing technique to minimize the watermarks. After this process, the silk was steamed and washed and cut into two rectangular shapes on the straight grain to accommodate the front bust arc and the back hip arc.

The technique used in creating this design was twin needle pintucking. This technique was used to achieve a contouring torso without using traditional fitting elements. Therefore, the prototype of pintucks was sewn onto 2'x2' silk to measure the shrinkage created by the pintucks. The shrinkage was utilized as the fitting element for the waist without cutting the original rectangular shape into a curve. After several samples, the right fit was achieved by using a 7-groove pintuck foot and 2.0/80 twin needles. Thin cording (1/16") was inserted into each pintuck for an added three dimensional interest.

The final design successfully displays the contoured basque look without a rigid boning structure. This dress will be used in a construction techniques course to document the practice of pintucking and draping design thus contributing to the scholarship of teaching.



